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No cases having occurred in Talladega since January 30, the epidemic there may be said to be at an end, until the town is reinfected.

From the first of the above table it will be seen that in Birmingham and Bessemer, where, under city ordinance, vaccination can be enforced, the decrease in the weekly number of cases has been steady. In the county, however, in some of the smaller towns and mining camps, vaccination is optional, it is opposed by the people, and, for the reasons stated in my letter of February 7, cases of smallpox, I believe, will continue to appear for some time to come. The force of inspectors has been reduced to about 20 men, and owing to the growing opposition on the part of the people, they are accomplishing but little; therefore, if it meets with the approval of the Bureau, I will discontinue these as soon as the inspection now being made is completed, and unless something unforeseen should happen, I will discontinue operations about March 1.

As stated in previous communications, the population of the mining camps, with which this and adjoining counties are dotted, is a very shifting one. Unvaccinated laborers are continually coming in, furnishing material to keep the disease alive, and in many cases bringing infection with them, so that, in my opinion, unless work is undertaken throughout the South, it is almost a hopeless task to attempt to stamp it out entirely and permanently, either here or in any other locality.

I have urged the mine owners to have all new labor vaccinated by their mine physicians, and though they promise to do this, the rule is in most cases a dead letter.

Respectfully, yours,

G. M. MAGRUDER,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Precautions against the spread of smallpox in Brownsville.

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *February 12, 1898.*

SIR: In my communication to you of the 7th instant, I reported the discovery in this city of 1 case of smallpox. So far no other cases have occurred. In addition to other precautions taken by the municipal authorities to prevent a spread of the disease, I would mention the vaccination of the pupils of the public schools. I was ordered to do this by the city council, and have this day completed the work. Over 500 subjects have been vaccinated. This work is still continued amongst the indigent poor, who have not taken this precaution.

Respectfully,

FREDERICK J. COMBE,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Smallpox in Johnson City, Tenn.

JOHNSON CITY, TENN., *February 16, 1898.*

SIR: Since my last report 3 new cases have developed in quarantine and 1 woman out of quarantine in a third part of city. Last case was caused by carelessness of guards or insufficient guards. * * *

We have 9 cases of discrete smallpox in pesthouse and 50 exposed persons in quarantine. Our quarantine is rigid now, and I feel sure the local board will not allow another accident like the above.

I am, very truly, yours,

W. J. MILLER.

JOHNSON CITY, TENN., *February 19, 1898.*

SIR: I am glad to report no new cases of smallpox here for last two days; 9 cases in pesthouse, 4 convalescent; rest in good condition, and